GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3797
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
SETTING UP OF SOIL TESTING CENTRE IN ORISSA
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the soil in Orissa is gradually losing its quality thereby affecting higher production of rice and other foodgrains;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a soil testing centre in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.The State Government has reported problem of soil acidity in high rainfall areas,which does not hamper much the production of rice but affects the production of pulses and oilseeds.

(b): The Central Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) by advocating soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary nutrients and micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers.The Government is also educating farmers through training and field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers for improving soil fertility.The State Government,on its part,is encouraging use of Gypsum,a soil conditioner rich in calcium,sulphur and other micro nutrients,and Paper Mill Sludge for soil amelioration.

(c) & (d): There are at present 11 Soil Testing Laboratories in Orissa.The State Government has proposed to set up four soil testing laboratories.